Dublin, April 26. 1865

My dear Mr Macy — My Son Alfred rushed into the office today — having been out on some business — and his pale with excitement when we had heard the bad news from America. He then said a telegram had just been read by a steamer by way of the ports of Ireland announcing the assassination of President Lincoln & Secretary Seward. I dont know any public man who could have been so deplored — or who will be replaced with so much difficulty in his country. His character is truly noble & generous, unselfish & disinterested. I know few men who deserve more entirely the name of a Christian Statesman, merciful, kindly & wise — seeking the good of others rather than his own. I fear it will be difficult to supply his place — for no one appears he seems to have been absolutely free from any crime but for the best interests of the nation — & he seemed always ready to act

hast to have aimed to do the best thing
in the most prudent way

Whilst I could not but congratulate even
on the fall of Richmond Petersburg & the
surrender of Lee, I can as I have always
been since the rebellion began unable to
enjoy good news from Genl Sherman thoroughly
- for I fell that the evil steamed might
bring Sherbring unbeknown to damp my
enjoyment. There are so many armies
& vast multitudes of guerillas - bloody,
cruel & unscrupulous, scattered over the
vast Southern territory - that we can never
tell from one day to another what mischief
they may do. Witness this fearful unbelief
seven days ago to hand I had much
rather have heard of the death of the two
kings in Europe than of the untimely end
of the Upright Abraham Lincoln. Such a
heavy blow to go down to posterity only second
to that of Washington in the veneration
of the American people & the [illegible] who regard
the prosperity of America as identical with that
of human progress throughout the world.

the good work with France was stopped by England from 1793 to 1809 when she got a good General in Wellington. America has now many Generals of good rate ability. She has produced patriots of rare devotedness, literally without numbers, now is the time for her statesmen to come forward & to see that the plan of the murdered president shall be supplied as far as possible. How lamentable that Andrew Johnson so disgraced himself. I hope he may be compelled to clear himself respectably in future and that the cause of the nation may not suffer at such a crisis through his misconduct. The country & the true friends of the United States as well as of those who do not wish her to sink — will be stretched to the utmost as each succeeding telegram arrives. — It is impossible to guess what may be the effect of these assassinations upon the Southern people — or to what extent the General policy of the government may be altered after such a change in its principal departments.

Alfred takes the death of Mr Lincoln very much to heart. He cannot think or talk of anything else. He had quite a personal affection for him. Then too was the pride of Professor Lowell who has always had a profound faith in his sagacity, his enlightened, good intentions, and integrity. Mr Lincoln repaid his duty this tenfold. Here were [illegible] characteristics of his nature.

By the last mail I sent off a letter to a gentleman who is preparing a work to the United States. I believe it may not reach you, but it contained a copy of the enclosed list, which I have since corrected — to that hour I am quite sure of what I would be glad to get — though I by no means expect this ~~[illegible]~~ numbers wanting in the early volumes. I found I had a good deal of vol. 5 short of vol. 6 — which I thought there were too deficient to be worth mentioning. But I don't wish you to put yourself out of your way in this matter.

MS. B. L. 6 v. 15, p. 118

Our poor shabby papers are changing their tune now that the battle is victorious. I think in the matter of Home Rule the English are generally more able to mind themselves than the Irish. Here in Ireland we have time & heart for nothing but our Popish & Protestant bigotry & party spirit. We have no disposition to take a large views of our interest. Indeed I think I have often told you that in my opinion the Catholic Irish in particular know little of the principles of constitutional liberty, and are as ready as they can be to be led by leaders but their clergy.

I enclose you a rough proof of a letter on the poverty & exhibitions in Ireland on behalf of the Freedmen. The great majority has been contributed by the Society of Friends and they I learn is the same in England. You will see my name is among them, as I send my first donation towards them; for they were the first to look for help for the slaves.

Rev. Dr Harper has been here on a Deputation appointed from New York, looking for money. I have a good deal of him. He is a Baptist

I thought him a good theirmen of the Presbytery Divine such as the abolitionists need to attack. He is not pro-slavery now — but he evidently dont warm to the abolitionists. The praises Dr Fuller formerly of Charleston and Lutherdale Adams Theodore Parker so did not go the right way to work — and that the clergy were also opposed to slavery but on a different way. He has left behind him here an agent an Irishman (two years resident in the U.S.) who combines the strange characters of character — that he is wonderfully like an American in manners & astuteness & adroitness & inefficiency & selfishness. A more useless man could hardly have come here. He has neither influence nor voice. This is entre nous

Alfred has been mainly instrumental in celebrating a breach of promise by Miss Mary Jane Montanaro Congreve Fathers Mary daughter in trying to stop the

the ladies. I mention these things last for should they see our doings nothing but talking. Dr Harper told me that the Establishments have been doing very little less than other people. I reminded him that I had just seen Sarrem name down for 100 dollars which he committed was a large sum from one who is by no means a rich man —

Mrs Hess has instructed me to write to you at once to express her & my hearty sympathy for you & for the Waters

Yours affectionately

Richard D Webb

What a forgiving Thompson is! I have not heard a line for some time

ms. B. 1. 6 v. 15. p. 118